Student Handout: Attention Grabbers/Closers

ATTENTION GRABBER
A good speech grabs the audience’s attention right at the very beginning. There are a number of ways you can do that:

• Use a quote (e.g., As Gene Tunney said, “Excercise should be regarded as tribute to the heart.”)
• Make a strong statement (e.g., Our schools are failing young people.)
• Use a statistic (e.g., 80% of students report being bullied.)
• Tell a story (e.g., I will never forget the day my grandmother died of cancer.)
• Ask a rhetorical question that relates to your topic (e.g., Have you ever felt so scared and unsafe that you would not get out of bed?)
• Pose a hypothetical situation (e.g., Imagine being sent to a country where you don’t speak the language or know a single person.)

Think about an original and interesting attention grabber that would work well with your speech and describe it below.

CLOSER
The last thing you say to your audience should stick with them. That is why a good closer is so important. Some powerful ways to end a speech are:

• Summarize the main speech topics or main points
• Refer back to your opener
• Call them to act and offer them how-to-do-it steps (e.g., If everyone in this room called their congressperson...) 
• Visualize the outcome of your call to action (e.g., Imagine a world where…)
• Transform your central idea into an easy to remember slogan (e.g., The more we share, the more we care.)
• Finish with a clinching personal anecdote (e.g., My neighbor told me of a time...)
• Provide a statistic or fact (e.g., 100 more teens will try to commit suicide by tomorrow...)

Think about how you can end your speech to leave a lasting impression on your audience and write it below.